

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
2	DDCI				
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI				
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7	DDO		X		
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OLL				
14	D/PAO		X		
15	VC/NIC				
16	C/EA/DO		X		
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SUSPENSE		Date _____			

Remarks

Executive Secretary

24 Sep 85

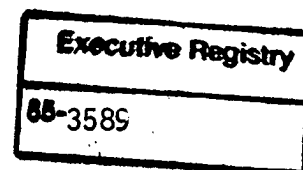
Date

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September 19, 1985

Director William J. Casey
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505



Dear Mr. Casey

I am writing you this letter in hopes that it will cause you to initiate an investigation on behalf of those still being held captive as prisoners of war in South East Asia and their families.

After reading Mr. Anderson's column in the Wednesday newspaper, of which I've inclosed a copy, and other reports of several different television networks on the same issue, I cannot see why immediate action is not being taken to have these men who are covering up this issue thoroughly questioned as to the cover-up by either government or civilian investigative committees. As an ex-Marine, if I were told by my superiors that, if in the event of capture that I shouldn't expect to be broken out, especially after any cross-border operation, I would have told them to go and do it themselves, and, after requesting transfer from the unit and stating that as the reason for the request, I would try to have some sort of investigation mounted by my superiors in the new unit even if it caused me to be regarded as a troublemaker or whatever, just as I am doing now, as a civilian.

I would also like to point out that there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, who agree with my views and are equally willing to regroup and attempt to rescue those still held captive after it all came down in April of 1975, not by negotiation, but by force in the form of raids on these compounds; abductions of personnel holding these men, and their superiors, no-one being to high in their accountability; and/or total "extinction" of all those involved. These actions currently could be privately financed and, although highly terroristic, in light of what has been revealed currently by a few "True Americans", who themselves were sent to be "set-up" by these contemptable commanders, could not possibly hurt or discredit any negotiations currently being undertaken by these "phonies" who should be tried for high treason.

I say again, I am not alone in these views on this issue.

Respectfully,

DCI
EXEC
REG

STAT
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Coverup: Communists are holding MIAs

By JACK ANDERSON
and DALE VAN ATTA

WASHINGTON — At the urging of anguished relatives, we've spent years investigating whether American prisoners are still alive in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. We're now prepared to announce our conclusion:

We are convinced that some Americans on the missing-in-action list have actually been held by their communist captors for more than a decade.

The latest top-secret reports identify one group of about two dozen who are believed to be doing "technical work" for the Vietnamese — repairing helicopters and other military hardware left behind by U.S. forces.

"Actually, there are more likely a hundred POWs still living there," said a key source in the Defense Intelligence Agency. He based this estimate

on satellite photos, communications intercepts and human reports. "The evidence," he said, "is overwhelming."

This evidence may be forced into open court by a class-action lawsuit, filed by a former prisoner-of-war and a Special Forces sergeant. They charge that federal officials have violated U.S. law by not aggressively seeking the release or rescue of live POWs still being held in Southeast Asia.

A TALE OF intrigue and betrayal rivaling the movie "Rambo" could unfold in a federal court in Fayetteville, N.C., the "company town" of the Green Berets.

Affidavits filed in the suit claim U.S. officials deliberately ignored or discredited reports of live POW sightings. One affidavit, by a Congressional Medal of Honor winner, even suggests the Army tried to arrange the death or

capture of the plaintiffs in the suit.

A much-decorated former POW, retired Maj. Mark A. Smith, swears that while he was serving with the Special Forces in Korea he got information for the DIA from 1981 to 1984 proving that there were POWs in Southeast Asia. The information was gathered "by talking with agents in the Thai military, the Lao resistance, the Pathet Lao, the free Vietnamese, gun smugglers, gold smugglers, drug smugglers and anyone who could provide information."

Smith said he cross-checked reports of about 50 agents, most of whom had no knowledge of each other but who corroborated the others' testimony.

In April 1984, Smith learned that three POWs could be rescued from Laos the following month. But when he took this information to a U.S. major general in Seoul, Smith's affidavit said,

"I was told that if I wanted to be a Lt. Col. in the Army that I should forget about the POW/MIA information..."

SMITH SAID WHEN the general read the cover letters Smith had prepared, he "turned white, handed the briefing back to me and said, 'This is too hot for me to handle, big guy.'" Smith swore that the general advised him to "put the briefing paper through a shredder and forget the whole issue."

Sgt. Melvin C. McIntire, still on active duty, served in Korea with Smith and also made trips to Southeast Asia to gather information on POWs. "I learned of approximately 200 living Americans in Laos who were prisoners-of-war," McIntire's affidavit said. When he, too, reported on the POWs who could have been brought out in May 1984, he "was sent back to the United States six months early." He

was later told that his and Smith's intelligence reports had been destroyed.

The Medal of Honor winner, Lt. Col. Robert Lewis Howard, now with the Special Forces in Germany, swore that he was told of live POW sightings in January 1984, in Thailand, when he "participated in a training exercise which I now believe was designed and intended to discredit the intelligence-gathering activity" of the Korea-based Special Forces unit.

The mission "if completed as planned, could have resulted in the killing or capture of myself, Maj. Mark Smith, Sgt. McIntire and others by a hostile force," Howard swore, adding, "This could have had the effect of putting the American POW/MIA issue to rest."

Footnote: A Pentagon official refused to comment because "it is pending litigation."

*The Herald News
Passaic, New Jersey
September 18, 1985*